



Exvqhv Olfhqvhv# #Uhxaiwq Uhfuhdwq Hgxfdwq Wrsfiv Frqdwf Mrq#kv Search or keywords

H{scrui# dwhu Z dwhv Odnhv Z dhwkhwg Edvqv Ip sdhng# dwhv Surhfw G rfxp hqw

**Bower Creek, East River Watershed (LF01)****Bower Creek (118400)**

**Size** 10 Miles  
**Segment** 3 - 13  
**Natural Community** ☒ Cool (Cold Transition) Headwater, Cool (Warm Transition) Headwater  
**Year Last Monitored** ☒ 2012  
**General Condition** Poor or Suspected Poor  
This river is **impaired**  
**Impairments include** Low DO, Degraded Habitat  
**Pollutants include** Total Phosphorus, Sediment/Total Suspended Solids

[Return to Search](#)[Go to Watershed](#)

[Overview](#) [Conditions](#) [Goals](#) [Monitoring & Projects](#) [Ecosystem Challenges](#) [Fish & Habitat](#) [Photo Gallery](#) [Map Gallery](#)

**Overview**

Bower Creek, a 13-mile creek, supports a warm water forage fishery and a warm water sport fishery. This stream is a turbid hardwater stream draining sluggishly into the East River. The stream drains highly agriculturalized land where it picks up the heavy silt load that composes the bottom material. Undercut banks and rock provide instream cover. Crayfish are very prolific in this stream. The fishery consist of bluegills, young-of-the-year northern pike, suckers and carp. Stream habitat assessment surveys indicate poor to fair habitat and macroinvertebrate studies indicate poor to fair water quality. The highly agriculturalized watershed makes very poor recreational waters out of this stream. The Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with local, State and Federal agencies, obtains a large amount of data pertaining to the water resources of Wisconsin each year (Holmstrom 1996). A gaging station is located on Bower Creek on the left bank downstream from the County Trunk Highway MM bridge, 1.1 mile east from intersection of Highways G and MM, and 6.2 miles southeast of the post office in De Pere (USGS 1996). Discharge data has been collected since October 1990. Please refer to the U.S. Geological Survey Water Resource Data Wisconsin Water Year 1996 for specific data. Funding should be secured to continue operating this U.S. Geological Survey gauging station to maintain adequate flow records in the Lake Michigan Geological Management Unit (GMU). Data will be used to monitor impacts from land practices in the Bower Creek Subwatershed. The basin was studied during 1985-86 to determine water quality in relation to stream flow. Data for Upper Bower Creek included baseline sample and event analysis. In a report by Hughes (1988) Upper Bower Creek had the highest mean concentrations of BOD-5, total phosphorus, fecal coliform and fecal streptococcus of all the sites monitored during 1985-86. This stream exceeded the acceptable coliform level for recreational water quality of 200 counts/100 ml 91% of the time. Agricultural discharges were suspected of contributing significantly to degraded water quality. Suspended solids at the downstream boundary of the Upper Bower Creek watershed was 264 tons/mi2/year. Total phosphorus yields were 2,676 lbs/mi2/yr (Hughes 1988).

Bougie, Cheryl A. 1999. Lower Fox River Basin Water Quality Management Plan. Public Review Draft. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI.

**Date** 1999

**Author** Cheryl Bougie

**Counties**

Brown

**Trout Water** ☒ ☒ No  
**Outstanding or Exceptional** ☒ ☒ No  
**Impaired Water** ☒ ☒ Yes

**Fish and Aquatic Life**

**Current Use** ☒ WWFF ☒  
**Attainable Use** ☒ WWSF ☒  
**Designated Use** ☒ Default FAL ☒



- Feedback
- Employment
- Legal notices
- Privacy notice
- Acceptable use policy
- News
- Topics
- Hotlines
- Site requirements

101 S. Webster Street PO Box 7921 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921 608.266.2621